Mercy Corps AgriFin Farmer Insights







mastercard

60 __ decibels

AGRIFIN

We work with +14m farmers & over 150 partners across Africa

Mercy Corps' AgriFin is funded by the Mastercard Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help organizations design, test and scale digitally-enabled services for Africa's smallholder farmers.

- Objective to develop services that increase farmer income, productivity and resilience, with 50% outreach to women.
- Work with private & public sector scale partners such as banks, mobile network operators, agribusinesses, technology innovators and governments.
- We help our partners develop bundles of digitally-enabled services, including smart farming, financial services, market access and logistics supporting data-driven partnerships.



Welcome To Your Lean Data Results

We enjoyed hearing from 2,514 farmers working with your Partners across Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania – they had a lot to say!

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Deep Dive

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Appendix



Partners Served

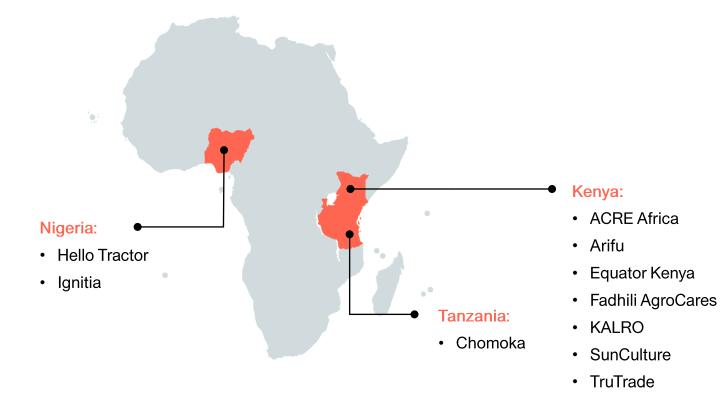
This report provides data and analysis from 10 projects conducted with 10 Partners.

Projects were conducted in 3 countries in 4 languages.

All data was collected through phone surveys. We saw an average response rate of 59%, that is, for every 10 phone calls attempted we were able to complete 6 interviews. The average length of interview was 22 minutes. Lean Data Insights For Mercy Corps AgriFin

In 2020 - 2021, we spoke with 2,514 farmers associated with 10 of your Partners in 3 countries.

Lean Data for Mercy Corps AgriFin: 2020-21 Projects





Partner Clusters

All Partners barring KALRO, were private social enterprises.

Four of the Partners worked in Training & Advisory, while two each worked in Mechanization, Market Access and Financial Input.

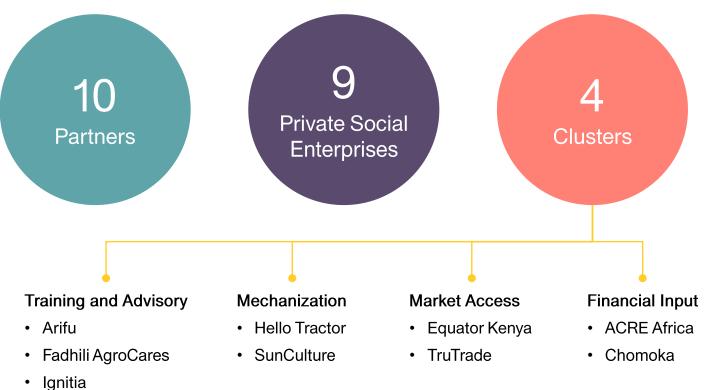
Details on the intervention provided by each Partner is included in the Appendix.

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We grouped Partners into four clusters to conduct cluster level analysis.

Partner Classification

KALRO





Top Portfolio Insights

AgriFin's partners are servicing underserved farmers with unique products & services that were previously inaccessible. Farmers are experiencing positive impact and improved climate resilience.

| Headline | | Detail |
|----------|---|---|
| | Partners are providing unique products and services to underserved | 55% of farmers live below \$3.2 per person per day compared to the average country poverty rate of 64%. 1 in 3 are female, which is above the 60dB Agriculture benchmark. |
| | populations, half of whom are living in poverty and a third of whom are women. See Slides: <u>10, 12, 14, 15</u> | 84% are accessing the kind of product/service that the Partner provides for the first time, and 81% do not have access to a good alternative, suggesting that Partners are reaching an under-served population. |
| | See Sildes. <u>10</u> , <u>12</u> , <u>14</u> , <u>15</u> | |
| | Partners are outperforming the 60dB | AgriFin's partners outperform 60dB benchmarks on almost all metrics of farmer experience and impact. |
| | agriculture benchmarks on experience and impact. Female farmers are experiencing the products & services similar to their male counterparts. | Farmer satisfaction and loyalty is reflected in the excellent Net Promoter Score of 49, which is higher the 60dB benchmark for agricultural social enterprises. The experience does not vary between male and female farmers, implying that they are equally satisfied and loyal towards the partners. |
| | See Slides: <u>14</u> , <u>15</u> , <u>41</u> , <u>42</u> | Partners are positively impacting farms and livelihoods. At least 70% report increases in farm production, money earned from farming and their overall quality of life. |
| | Partners are helping farmers becoming climate resilient by positively impacting their recovery from shocks. | Farmers who faced a climate shock in the 2 years and have recovered from it, were asked if the partners had any effect on their recovery. Half said that that the working with the partner had a positive effect on recovery. Farmers who had savings, received weather-related information and accessed reliable source of work were |
| | See Slides: <u>14</u> , <u>33</u> | most likely to be climate resilient. |



(1/2)

Top Actionable Insights

AgriFin should leverage its access to a variety of partners to fulfil farmers desire for a bundled offering. Some partners could widen their reach to female farmers by making acquisition channels more gender inclusive. 7

| Sug | gested Action | Detail |
|-----|--|---|
| | Consider ways in which AgriFin can forge partnerships among its partners to provide bundled offerings to farmers. See Slides: <u>27</u> , <u>34</u> | The most frequently mentioned suggestion among farmers across partners is access to additional agricultural services, in the form of bundled offerings. Farmers who receive bundled offerings have a much higher Net Promoter Score and were more likely to report improvements farming outcomes, and their quality of life. |
| | Consider adopting low-cost technology to establish post-sale touchpoints with farmers. See Slides: <u>19</u> , <u>26</u> , <u>27</u> | Availability of financial services like insurance is scarce and partners like ACRE Africa are providing this unique service offering to some of the poorest Kenyan farmers, most of whom are also women. However, ACRE Africa has a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of -15, such that 45% of its farmers are dissatisfied. Additionally, 52% of the farmers report facing challenges with ACRE Africa. |
| | | Top reasons reported by the dissatisfied farmers included, lack of, or no communication around claim status, not receiving pay-outs despite facing calamity, and lack of company follow-ups after registering for the service. |
| | | Unresolved challenges with insurance providers may make it harder it convince farmers to insure themselves in the future. |
| | Discuss ways in which farmer acquisition channels and outreach can be made gender inclusive. | Partners receiving farm mechanization service, in the form of tractors and solar water pumps report strongest performance across indicators of farmer experience and impact. They also outperform the 60dB benchmarks by 73% points. However, few of the farmers receiving these products are underserved, and less than 1 in 5 are |
| | See Slides: <u>15, 18, 20, 22</u> | female. |

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Top Actionable Insights (2/2)

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Facilitating knowledge transfer sessions will help partners resolve challenges and maximize impact. Introducing financial products that incentivize saving could create lasting impact on farmers.

| Suggested Action | | Detail |
|------------------|---|---|
| | The impact of savings groups percolates down to the livelihood of the members, especially among farming households. Consider ways to provide | Through our research with Chomoka, we learnt that farmers who are part of a village level savings group used their savings and took loans from the group, to finance their farming practices. This financing proved beneficial to buy quality inputs that they could not buy earlier, helping them increase their production and revenues from farming. |
| | access to more savings instruments. See Slides: <u>19, 33</u> | 70% of the members who were a part of village level savings group also said that the savings helped them recover from climate shocks. |
| | Consider further research to identify operational bottlenecks that are | Partners providing market access services are bottom-ranked on the Net Promoter Score and the challenge rate. Farmers complain about delayed payments and the offered price being low. |
| | causing delayed payments among market access service providers. | Proactive communication about anticipated delays may help manage farmer expectations, but further research may be required to identify operational bottlenecks causing delayed payments. |
| | See Slides: <u>18, 22, 26, 27</u> | |
| | Facilitate knowledge transfer between partners to maximize impact. | Both Ignitia and KALRO provide weather-related information to Nigerian and Kenyan farmers respectively, helping them plan their farming season. However, while one of them is outperforming 60dB benchmarks and is top-ranked across the dimensions of reach, experience and impact, the other bottom-ranked on the same indicators. |
| | | A knowledge transfer session facilitated by AgriFin may help improving their respective social performance. |

Deep Dive: Partner Reach and Farmer Profile

- 10 / Farmer Profile
- 11 / Contribution to Household Income
- 12 / Poverty Profile





Who Is Your Typical Farmer?

We asked a number of questions to understand the typical farmer household that AgriFin's partners are reaching. The characteristics are summarized on the right.

We observed a variation in profile among different Partners.

For instance, 74% of farmers being serviced by a market access provider in Kenya were female, while a few other partners served less than 5% female farmers.

Similarly, a Partner that provides farming related training via a chat-bot, predominantly served farmers aged 18 to 35, while most of the other partners served more aged farmers.

Farmers in Nigeria cultivated much larger land holdings compared to Kenyan farmers (10 Acres vs. 2 Acres). 35% of farmers identified as female, while 27% were aged 18 to 35 years.

About the Farmers

Averages of respondent characteristics, 2,475 farmers across 10 partners

8

35%

Average female farmers

Average household size 4.7

38%

Of land was

intervention

Partner's

cultivated using

Median acres of land cultivated in the last 12 months Duration of Engagement with Partner (months)

| | Longest |
|---------------|----------|
| () 17 | Average |
| | Shortest |

45

Average age; 27% were youth aged 18-35 85%

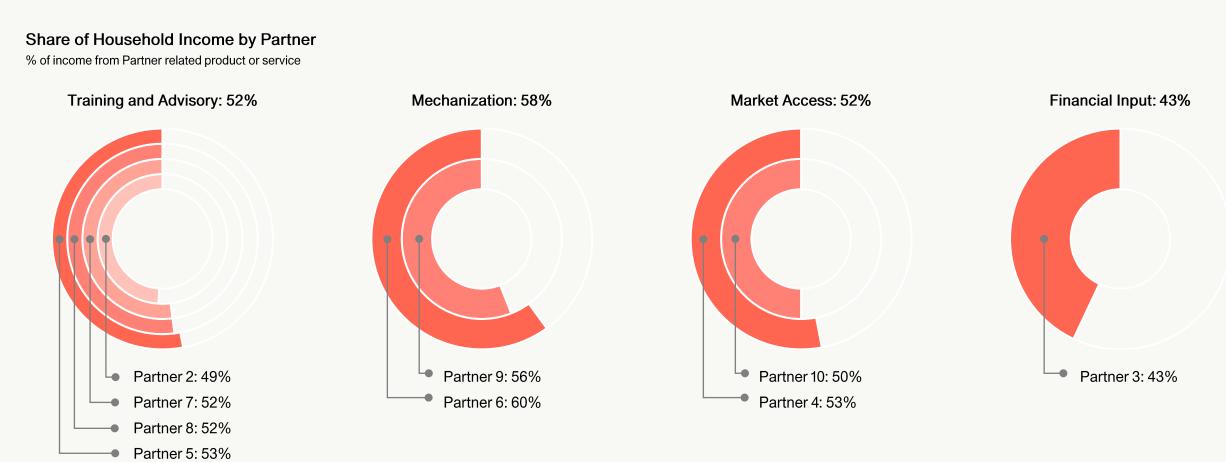
Of farmers live in the village or the countryside



Importance Of Partner To Livelihoods

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Roughly half of all household earnings in the last year came from a livelihood that was directly impacted by the Partner. The earnings varied between 43% and 60% for all Partners.





Poverty Profile Of Portfolio

Income distribution of AgriFin Partner's farmers is nearly identical to that of national country averages, resulting in an inclusivity ratio of 0.97.

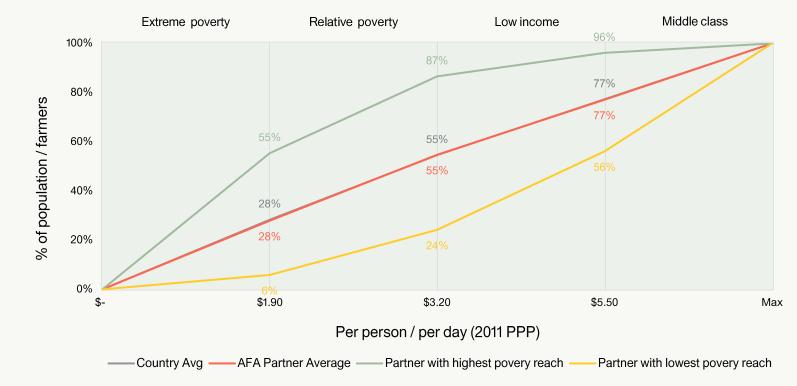
Income Distribution of partners Relative to Portfolio Country Average

Using the Poverty Probability Index, developed by Innovation for Poverty Action, we can measure the income profile of farmers and compare it to that country's average. This reveals whether a partner is under- or overpenetrating a certain income segment. One can think of it as a way of gauging partner "inclusivity".

We compared the poverty profile of the average partner to the average household profile across the 3 countries where the partners operate.

The partner average is slightly short of the country average implying a fairly inclusive portfolio with a chance to deepen penetration among the low income populations.

Partners in Nigeria and Tanzania were serving more low-income farmers compared to the ones in Kenya. % living below \$xx per day (2011), n = 2,475 farmers across 10 partners in 3 countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania)



Deep Dive: Portfolio Performance

- 14 / Portfolio Performance Snapshot
- 15 / AgriFin Partner Reach: Deep Dive
- 17 / AgriFin Aggregate Performance Relative to 60dB Agriculture Benchmark
- 18 / Cluster Performance Relative to 60dB Agriculture Benchmark
- 19 / Partner Performance Relative to 60dB Agriculture Benchmark
- 22 / Performance Ranking by Partner



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Partner Performance Snapshot

Partners are providing unique products and services to underserved farmers. Farmers are satisfied, and their farms and lives have been positively impacted. However, there is scope to reach poorer farmers and address challenges.

| Gender Reach 35% females | Poverty Profile Ø.97 Relative inclusivity ratio | First Access 84% first time accessing product/service provided | Alternatives 81% report no access to a good alternative | Challenges 30% report challenges | Net Promoter Score® 49 on a -100 to 100 scale |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Way of Farming 80% | Production 73% | Money Earned | Net Change in Money Earned 34% | Quality of Life 77% | Recovery From Shock 53% |
| way of farming 'very much improved' or 'slightly improved' | production 'very much increased' or 'slightly increased' | money earned 'very much increased' or 'slightly increased' | net change in earnings | quality of life 'very much improved' or 'slightly improved' | involvement with Partner had 'some' or 'significant' positive effect on recovery |



Combining Poverty Reach, First Access & Gender Inclusivity

To better understand the reach of AgriFin's Partners, we looked at each of their performances across three indicators:

- 1. Poverty reach analyzed using relative inclusivity ratio
- 2. First-time access
- 3. Females reach

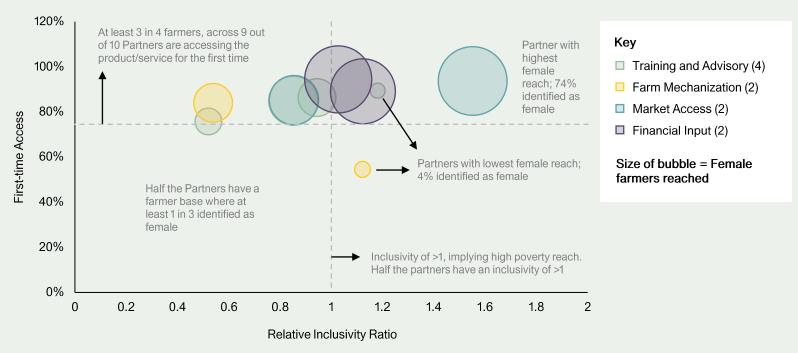
Across each of those three indicators we learnt the following:

- Five in 10 Partners had an inclusivity of >1, while 2 in 10 had an inclusivity of 0.85 to 1, implying that the Partners are reaching the poorer farmers within country
- 2. Five in 10 Partners had at least 38% female farmers
- 3. Nine in 10 Partners were providing a unique service to majority of them.

Six out of ten partners perform strongly on at least two out of three indicators of reach.

Relative Inclusivity Ratio vs. First-time Access vs. Female Farmers Reached

Relative Inclusivity Ratio = degree that customer base is representative of national country average (x-axis) First-time Access = % of farmers who are accessing a product or service for the first time (y-axis) Female Farmers Reached = % of farmers who identify as being female (size of bubble)



Note: Inclusivity Ratio: 1 = perfectly representative; < 1 = relatively higher-income; > 1 = relatively poorer than National Avg. Read more here.



Approach To Putting Performance In Context

The selected indicators cover three aspects of the Partners' performance and impact on farmers:

- Reach: Is the Partner reaching female farmers and providing farmers first time access to an agricultural product/service?
- Depth of impact: To what extent are farmers reporting improvements in their way of farming, production, revenue, and overall quality of life because of the Partner?
- Satisfaction: How likely are farmers to recommend the Partner to someone? How challenge-free was their engagement with the Partner?

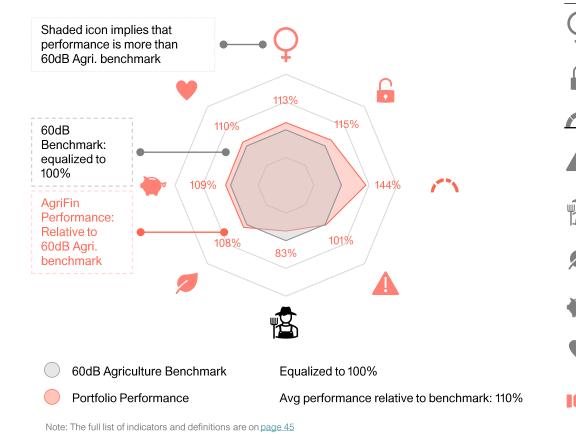
Portfolio average calculation:

- It is the average of individual Partner performances.
- It is indexed to 60dB benchmark.

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We selected eight indicators to visualize AgriFin's social and operational performance alongside 60dB's Agriculture benchmarks.

Guide on How to Read Spider Visualization



Key Female Farmers % females First Time Access % "very much improved" because of partner Net Promoter Score Proxy for farmer satisfaction/loyalty No Challenges % experienced "no" challenges with the partner Way of Farming % "very much improved" because of partner Production % "very much improved" because of partner Money Earned % "very much improved" because of partner Quality of Life % "very much improved" because of partner Shaded icon = Outperforming 60dB Agri. Benchmark



Comparing AgriFin's Performance To 60dB Benchmark

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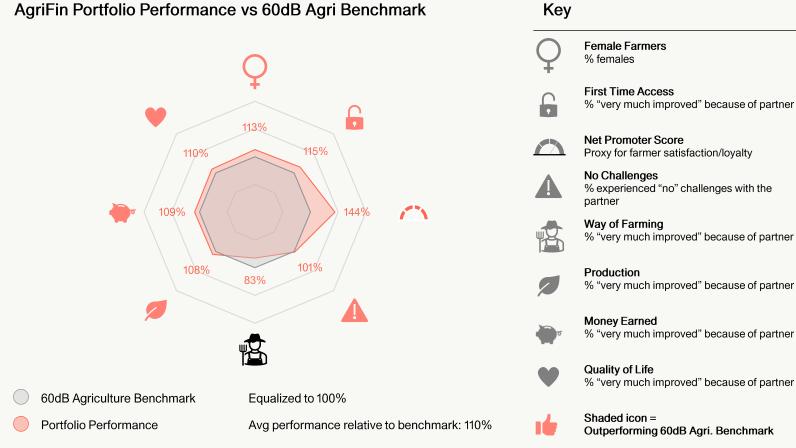
On average, Partners are outperforming 60dB Agriculture Benchmark by 10% points.

We compared the average performance of the 10 Partners against the 60+ agricultural organizations in the 60 Decibels' benchmark and found that the Partners are outperforming the benchmarks on all metrics except one.

The Partners tend to serve more farmers who are accessing their unique product or service for the first time. They also served more female farmers compared to other social enterprises.

Farmers' satisfaction with the Partners is observed from visibly higher Net Promoter Score.

Farmers also report improvements in crop production, revenue from farm and overall quality of life because of their engagement with the Partner.



Note: The full list of indicators and definitions are on page 45



Cluster Performance Relative to 60dB Benchmark

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Partners providing farm mechanization significantly outperformed 60dB benchmarks, while performance of training & advisory, and market access Partners was comparable to that of the benchmarks.

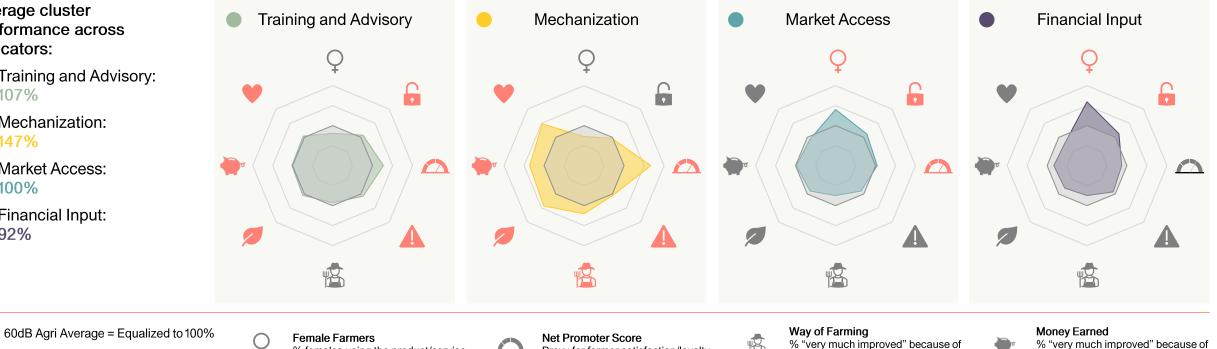
Average cluster performance across indicators:

- 1. Training and Advisory: 107%
- 2. Mechanization: 147%
- Market Access: 3. 100%
- 4. Financial Input: 92%

Partner Performance

Outperforming 60dB Agri. Benchmark

Shaded icon =



% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service

Quality of Life

% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service

No Challenges % experienced "no" challenges with Α product/service

Proxy for farmer satisfaction/loyalty

% females using the product/service

% accessing product/service for the

First Time Access

first time

•

% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service

organization's product/service

Production



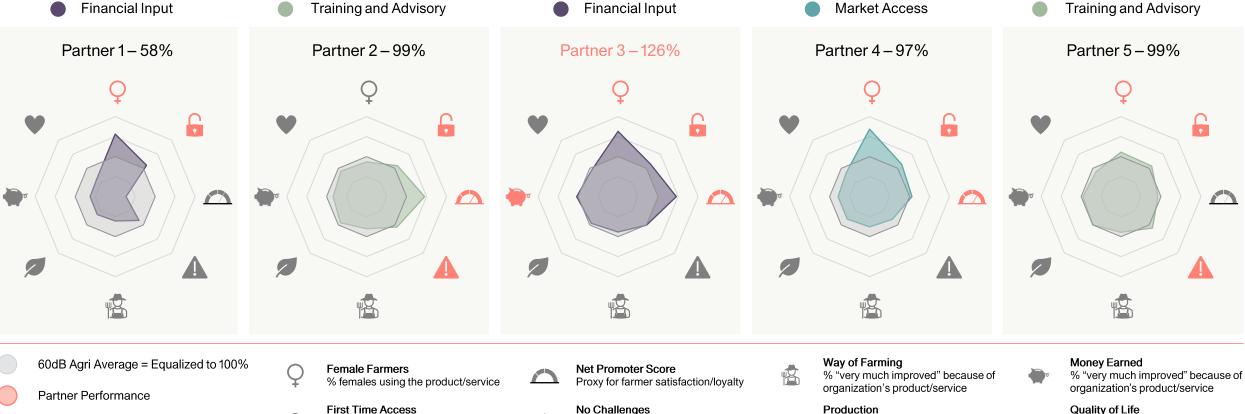
19

% "very much improved" because of

organization's product/service

Partner Performance Relative to 60dB Benchmark (1/2)

Partners providing financial services are outperforming 60dB benchmarks in their reach to women and first-time access.



Shaded icon = Outperforming 60dB Agri. Benchmark

First Time Access \cap % accessing product/service for the • first time

No Challenges % experienced "no" challenges with product/service

Α

Production

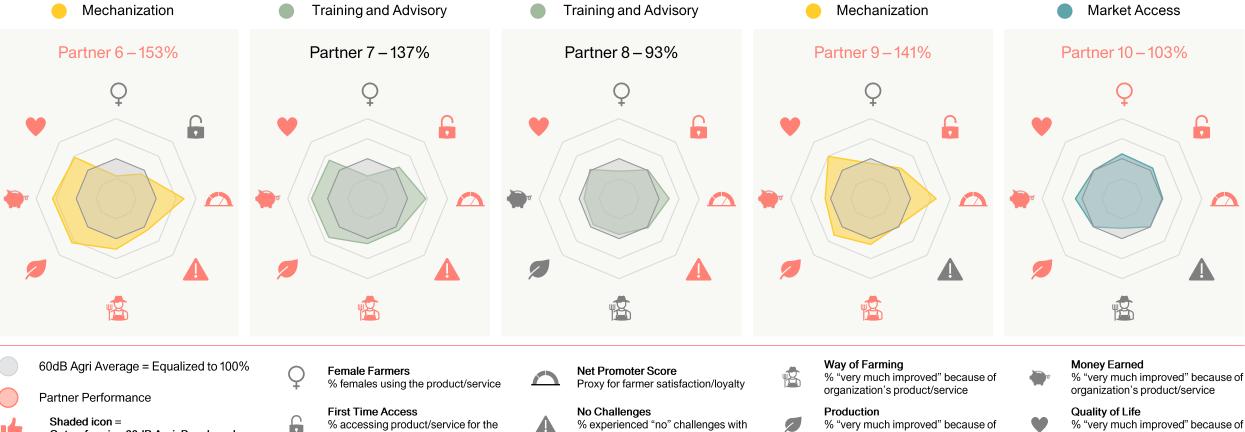
% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service



Partner Performance Relative to 60dB Benchmark (2/2)

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Mechanization service providers' impact on way of farming, production and quality of life is higher than benchmarks. All Partners are outperforming benchmarks for NPS but are reaching fewer female farmers on average.



Outperforming 60dB Agri. Benchmark

% accessing product/service for the • first time

% experienced "no" challenges with product/service

% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service

% "very much improved" because of organization's product/service



Partner Performance Ranking: Approach

We developed a ranking methodology to compare partners' performance based on their reach, experience and impact. Ranking outcomes are reported on the next slide.

We selected additional indicators across the three themes of reach, experience and impact.

Companies are ranked across their performance against each indicator, and their ranks are then averaged at the thematic level.

On the next slide, we have listed the thematic ranks across reach, experience and impact, and provided an overall rank for each of the 10 partners. List of Indicators including in Ranking across Reach, Experience and Impact

Reach Indicators



Female farmers reached % accessing services provided for the first time because of Partner

Relative Inclusivity Ratio % who are poor



 \leftrightarrow

First access % accessing services provided for the first time because of Grantee

Alternatives % 'no or not sure'

Experience Indicators



NPS Proxy for farmer satisfaction/loyalty



Challenges % facing a challenge

Impact Indicators



Way of Farming % "very much improved" because of Partner



Production % "very much improved" because of Partner

•

Money Earned % "very much improved" because of Partner



Net change in money earned % change because of Partner



Recovery from Climate Shock % who said Partner had a "significant positive effect" on their recovery from shock



Quality of Life % "very much improved" because of Partner



Partner Performance Ranking

Almost all Partners performed variably across the three thematic areas of reach, experience and impact.

The farmer base of mechanization service providers primarily consists of males, leading to them being ranked in the bottom half on indicators of farmer reach. However, farmers accessing their services report strong performance across experience and impact indicators, leading to an overall rank of 3 and 4, respectively. Partners providing farm mechanization had the most impact but lowest reach, while financial servicers providers displayed widest reach. Additionally, Partners providing market access had lowest satisfaction among farmers.

Partner Performance Ranking across Reach, Experience, Impact and Overall

| Partners Rank | Reach | Experience | Impact | Overall | |
|---------------|-------|------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|
| Partner 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | Training and Advisory |
| Partner 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | Financial Input |
| e Partner 6 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 3 | Mechanization |
| e Partner 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | Market Access |
| Partner 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | |
| Partner 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | |
| Partner 4 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 7 | |
| Partner 10 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 | |
| Partner 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 9 | |
| Partner 8 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 10 | |

Deep Dive:

Partner Performance on Lean Data Core Metrics

- 24 / Net Promoter Score
- 26 / Challenges Faced
- 27 / Suggestions For Improvements
- 28 / Way Of Farming
- 29 / Production And Productivity
- 30 / Money Earned
- 31 / Quality Of Life
- 33 / Effect On Recovery From Shock
- 34 / Differences in Impact of Bundled & Non-bundled Offerings



Net Promoter Score, by Partner

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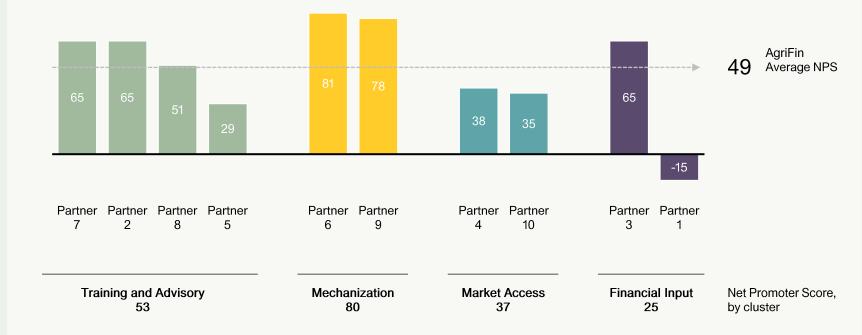
Mechanization partners have the highest NPS of 80, which is excellent. Half the partners are outperforming the 60dB benchmark by more than 15% points.

Farms receiving farm mechanization services like tractors and solar water pumps, were found to be most satisfied. NPS of financial service providers was the lowest among the four clusters s because of the wide variation between the NPS of Partner 3 and 1.

Both companies providing market access had scores that were below the 60dB benchmark. This was because farmers were unhappy with the prices offered for their crops, or due to delay in receiving payments. We have explored the reasons in greater detail on the next few slides.

Net Promoter Score, by Partner

Q: On a scale of 0-10, how likely are you to recommend [Partner] to a friend or family member, where 0 is not at all likely and 10 is extremely likely? (n = 2,514 farmers across 10 Partners)



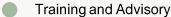


Satisfaction Reasons Among Promoters: Top Value Proposition

Top quality of the agri-inputs, increased farm production and improved knowledge of farming practices were most frequently mentioned reasons of satisfaction among farmers.

Proportion of Promoters per Partner, and Top Reasons for Satisfaction with the Partner (Open-ended data, coded by 60 Decibels; n = 1,512 farmers across 10 Partners in 3 countries)

| Partner AgriFin | | % Promoters | Top Satisfaction Reason | 2 nd Satisfaction Reason Increased farm production | 3 rd Satisfaction Reason Increased knowledge on farming practices |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|--|--|---|
| | | 64% | Access to quality agri-inputs | | |
| | Partner 6 | 94% | Service price is affordable | Quality of agents is good | Speedy and efficient ploughing |
| | Partner 9 | 92% | Access to reliable irrigation | Price is better than alternative's | Product is easy to use |
| | Partner 3 | 88% | Made it easy to maintain books | Provided access to loan | Increased time savings |
| | Partner 7 | 86% | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Access to quality agri-inputs | Access to reliable information |
| | Partner 2 | 84% | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Increased farm production | Information is easy to apply |
| | Partner 4 | 79% | Access to reliable buyer | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Price offered is better than alternative's |
| | Partner 8 | 75% | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Access to reliable information | Increased farm production |
| | Partner 5 | 75% | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Increased knowledge on soil and its types | Increased farm production |
| | Partner 10 | 70% | Price offered is good | Quality of agents is good | Access to reliable buyer |
| | Partner 1 | 69% | Access to insurance | Increased knowledge on farming practices | Quality of agents is good |





Delay in payments/pay-out, difficulty in using/applying product/service, and poor communication are the most frequently reported challenges by the farmers.

Proportion of Farmers Facing Challenges and Top Challenges, by Partner (Open-ended data, coded by 60 Decibels; n = 2,513 farmers across 10 Partners in 3 countries)

| Par | tner | % Challenges | Top Faced Challenge | 2 nd Most Faced Challenge | 3 rd Most Faced Challenge |
|-----|------------|--------------|---|--|---|
| Agı | iFin | 30% | Delay in payments/pay-out | Product/Service not easy to use/apply | Poor quality/frequency of communication |
| | Partner 4 | 58% | Delay in payments | Price offered for crop is too low | Service is unreliable |
| | Partner 1 | 50% | Delay in receiving insurance pay-out | Unpredictable weather (exogenous reason) | Inadequate communication |
| | Partner 9 | 36% | Poor quality of product | Product is unreliable | Poor customer care/service |
| | Partner 10 | 32% | Service not easy to use | Delay in payments | Price offered for crop is too low |
| | Partner 3 | 30% | Product not easy to use | Poor customer care/service | Lack of follow-ups after set-up |
| | Partner 8 | 27% | Information not easy to apply | Information provided is not reliable | Poor quality of product |
| | Partner 2 | 20% | Information not easy to apply | Poor customer care/service | Poor frequency of communication |
| • | Partner 6 | 16% | Service is unreliable | Service not easy to use | Delay in payments |
| | Partner 7 | 16% | Frequency of receiving information Is low | Information provided is not reliable | Information not easy to apply |
| | Partner 5 | 16% | Delay in receiving service | Inadequate communication | Information provided is not reliable |

Training and Advisory

Mechanization



Farmer Suggestions For Improvement, by Partner

Farmers want bundled offering with more services, more follow-ups post sale and more information from the partners.

Top Suggestions For Improvement, by Partner (Open-ended data, coded by 60 Decibels; n = 2,513 farmers across 10 Partners in 3 countries)

| Par | tner | % Suggestions | Top Suggestion | 2 nd Most Shared Suggestion | 3 rd Most Shared Suggestion |
|-----|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Agr | iFin | 81% | Provide additional agri-services | Need for more follow-ups post sales | Provide more information |
| | Partner 10 | 94% | Increase price offered for crop | Provide additional agri-services | Need for more follow-ups post sales |
| | Partner 4 | 92% | Provide payments in a timely manner | Provide access to loan | Provide additional agri-services |
| | Partner 1 | 88% | Need for more follow-ups post sales | Provide more information about service | Improve quality of customer care |
| | Partner 5 | 86% | Improve frequency of communication | Reduce delays in providing service | Need for more follow-ups post sales |
| | Partner 8 | 84% | Provide more accurate information | Improve frequency of information | Provide information via different mediums |
| | Partner 6 | 79% | Scale service to newer regions | Reduce delays in providing service | Improve quality of communication with user |
| | Partner 2 | 75% | Provide more in-depth information | Provide information via different mediums | Provide access to loan to apply information |
| | Partner 7 | 75% | Improve frequency of information | Provide additional agri-services | Provide more accurate information |
| | Partner 9 | 70% | Improve product quality | Provide additional agri-services | Improve quality of customer care |
| | Partner 3 | 69% | Improve user onboarding | Provide access to loan | Need for more follow-ups post set-up |

Training and Advisory

Mechanization



Way of Farming, by Partner

Farmers receiving mechanization and training & advisory services were more likely to report improvements in their way of farming because of the partner's product & service.

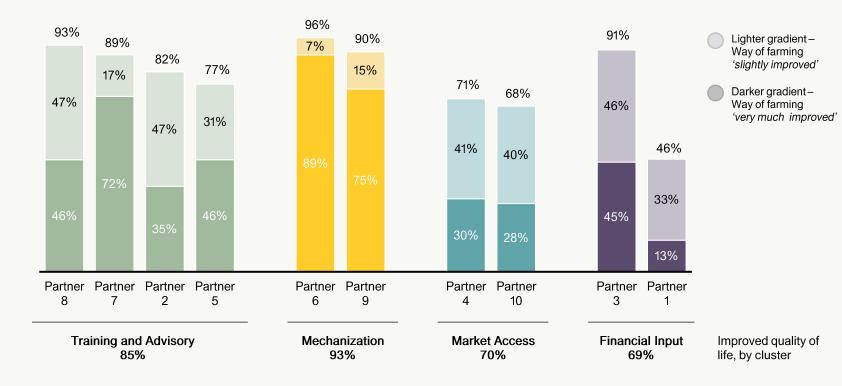
We took a closer look at farmers reporting changes in way of farming and found that while 48% farmers were reporting "very much improved" way of farming, an additional 32% were reporting "slightly improved."

Partners providing market access and insurance services reported lowest improvements in way of farming, however we found the following:

- TruTrade's impact on way of farming was deepening over time, especially farmers who had been selling to TruTrade for >2 years,
- 2. In case of ACRE Africa, farmers who received inputs with insurance, were much more likely to report improvements in way of farming than those who received only insurance.

Changes in Way of Farming, by Partner

Q: Has your way of farming changed because of [Partner] product/service? (n = 2,473 farmers across 10 Partners)





Production and Productivity, by Partner

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9 in 10 farmers who received mechanization services reported increases in production, while 7 in 10 who received training & advisory, and market access, reported increases.

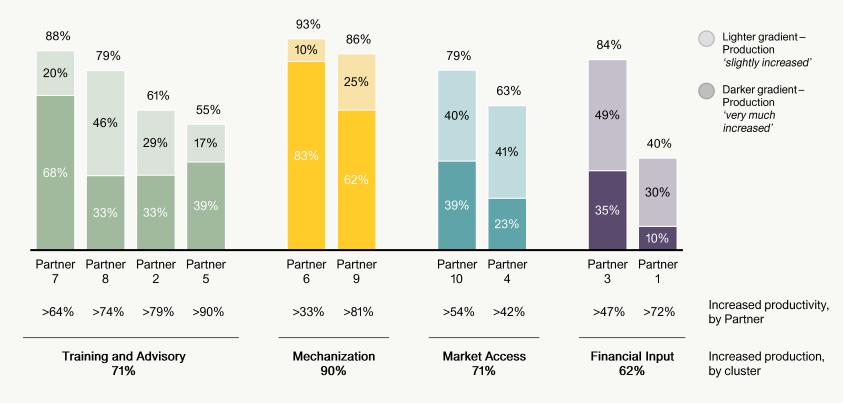
On average, 42% of farmers are reporting 'very much increased' production and an additional 30% are reporting slight increases.

We also triangulated changes in productivity and found that 64% of farmers increased their production without increasing the land under cultivation, implying that at least 2 in 3 farmers also increased productivity.

While products and services of partners providing training & advisory and mechanization services are aimed directly at increasing production and productivity, market access companies may have had a more behavioral effect on their farmers. Accessing a reliable buyer may have emboldened those farmers to grow more, because of surety of offtake.

Changes in Crop/Farm Production, by Partner

Q: Has the total production from your [crop/livestock] changed because of [Partner] [offering]? (n = 2,224 farmers across 10 Partners)





Money Earned, By Partner

4 in 5 farmers who received market access and mechanization services reported increases in farming revenue.

On average, 37% of farmers are reporting 'very much increased' money earned and an additional 34% are reporting slight increases.

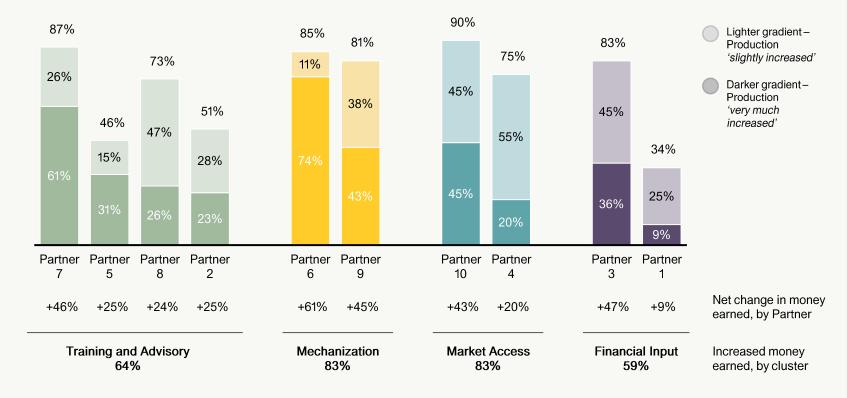
We also asked farmers by how much did their farming revenue increase or decrease. On average, farmers reported net positive increase of 52%.

Farmers who reported an increase were asked how significant was this increase to the household, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 was "not at all significant" and 5 was "very significant."

71% of the farmers who reported an increase in farming revenue, rated the increase as significant to the household (those who provided a rating of 4 or 5).

Changes in Money Earned, by Partner

Q: Has the money you earn from [crop/livestock] changed because of [Partner] [offering]? (n = 2,184 farmers across 10 Partners)





Quality of Life, by Partner 3 in 4 farmers across 8 partners reported improvements in their overall quality of life.

On average, 44% of farmers report 'very much improved' quality of life and an additional 32% report slight improvements.

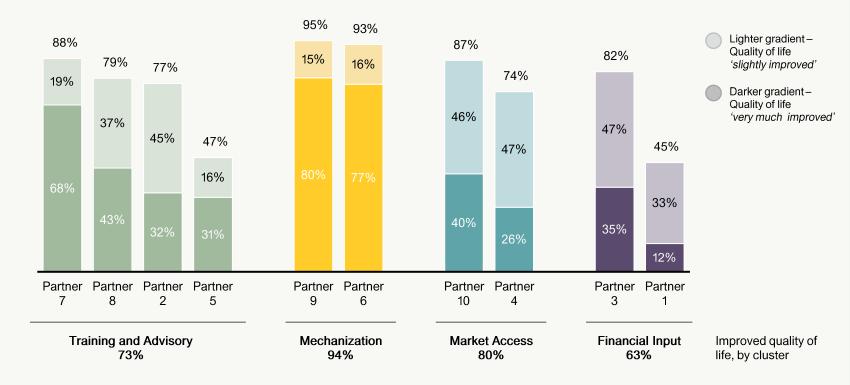
Farmers working with Partner 1 and 5 report much lower quality of life improvements compared to other Partners.

Farmers working with Partner 5 have been with the company for an average of 6 months, suggesting scope for deepening impact over time.

While farmers working with Partner 1, who received a bundled offering of inputs along with financial service, were much more likely to report improvements in their quality of life, providing avenue for how impact could be deepened.

Changes in Quality of life, by Partner

Q: Has your quality of life changed because of [Partner] product/service? (n = 2,473 farmers across 10 Partners)





Quality Of life Outcomes, by Partner

Increased farm production and ability to pay for household expenses and children's education were most frequently reporting improved quality of life outcomes.

Proportion reporting Improved Quality of Life, And Top Reasons How it has Improved, By Partner (Open-ended data, coded by 60 Decibels; n = 1,835 farmers across 10 Partners in 3 countries)

| Partner | % Improved Quality of life | Top Suggestion | 2 nd Most Shared Suggestion | 3 rd Most Shared Suggestion |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| AgriFin | 77% | Able to pay for household expenses | Increased farm production | Able to pay for child(ren)'s education |
| Partner 9 | 95% | Increase in leisure time | Access to reliable irrigation year-round | Decrease farming expenditure |
| Partner 6 | 93% | Increased farm production | Increased food consumption | Able to pay for household expenses |
| Partner 7 | 88% | Increased farm production | Improved farming practices | Increased food consumption |
| Partner 10 | 87% | Able to pay for household expenses | Able to pay for child(ren)'s education | Increased investment in farm |
| Partner 3 | 82% | Invested in new business/livelihood | Increased asset ownership and savings | Able to pay for child(ren)'s education |
| Partner 8 | 79% | Able to pay for household expenses | Able to pay for child(ren)'s education | Increased investment in farm |
| Partner 2 | 77% | Able to pay for household expenses | Improved financial planning | Invested in new business/livelihood |
| Partner 4 | 74% | Able to pay for household expenses | Able to pay for child(ren)'s education | Increased investment in farm |
| Partner 5 | 47% | Increased productivity | Decrease farming expenditure | Increased incoming from farming |
| Partner 1 | 45% | Able to pay for household expenses | Increased food consumption | Increased farm production |

Training and Advisory

Mechanization



Effect on Recovery from Shock, by Partner

6 in 10 farmers who received training & advisory and mechanization services said that the partner had a positive effect on their ability to recover from the climate shock.

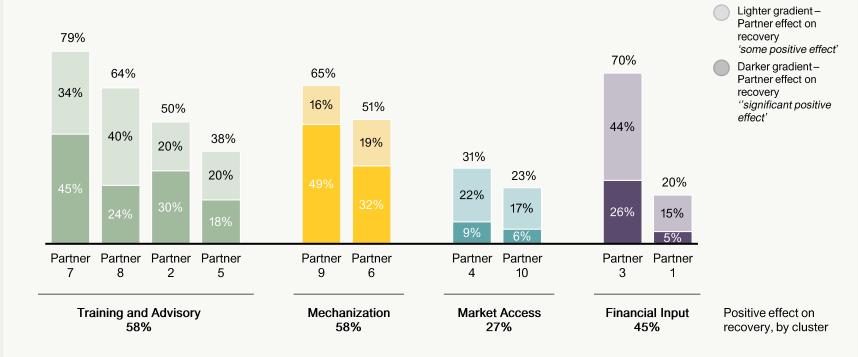
We asked farmers about the status of the recovery from a climate shock, if they had been affected by one. Of all farmers, 30% recovered and were better off than before the shock, while 30% were at the same level as before.

To those who recovered, we asked if working with the partner had any effect on their recovery from the shock.

Farmers who were saving money, receiving weather-related information, and accessing reliable source of water, because of the partner, were most likely to report that the partner helped them recover from a climate shock.

Effect on Recovery from Shock, by Partner

Q: Did your involvement with the Partner have a positive, negative or no effect on your recovery? (n = 2,473 farmers across 10 Partners)





Differences in Impact of Bundled & Non-bundled Offerings

We wanted to understand if the impact being felt on farmers receiving bundled offerings was different compared to those who did not.

This analysis was performed on samples of Partner 1, 4 and 8, who provided bundled offerings to a subset of their farmers. Select examples below:

- 1. A third of ACRE Africa farmers received inputs, along with the core offering of crop insurance,
- 2. A third of KALRO's farmers received inputs, along with core offering of weather information.

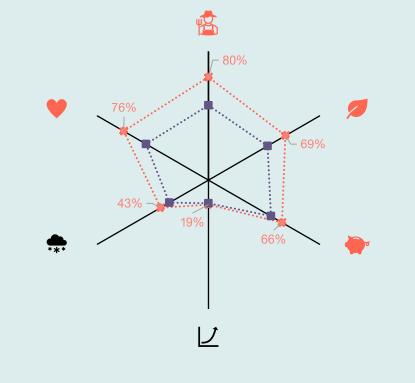
Average performance improvement across the six impact indicators:

- 1. Farmers receiving bundled offering: 59%
- 2. Farmers receiving only core offering: 46%

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Farmers receiving bundled offerings were more likely to report improvements across farming outcomes, and their overall quality of life.

Differences in Impact, by Nature of Services Provided by Partners



Key



Farmers receiving only core offering



Shaded icon = Significant difference in outcomes between the two groups

Deep Dive: Gender

- 36 / Gender Difference in Profile, Reach and Experience
- 37 / Gender Difference in Impact
- 38 / Gender Performance Ranking by Partner
- 39 / Gender Difference in Qualitative Outcomes



Gender: Profile, Reach and Experience

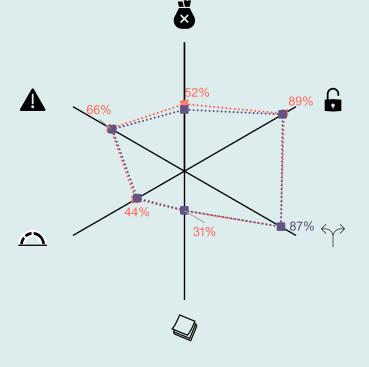
We wanted to understand if female farmers that the partners were reaching were different in terms of their profile compared to their male counterparts, and if the female farmers were differently experiencing the product or the service.

Average performance improvement across the indicators:

- 1. Female: 61%
- 2. Male: 60%

We found no significant differences between female and male farmers, with respect to their profile and their experience with the partner.

AgriFin Portfolio Performance on Profile, Reach and Experience Indicators, by Gender







Shaded icon = Significant difference in outcomes between the two groups

36



Gender: Impact

We wanted to understand if the impact being felt by female farmers was different compared to their male counterparts.

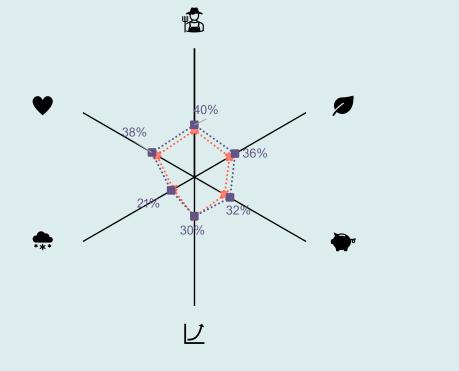
Average performance improvement across the six impact indicators:

1. Female: 30%

2. Male: 33%

We found no significant differences between the impact being felt by female and male farmers.

AgriFin Portfolio Performance on Impact Indicators, by Gender



Key ß Way of Farming % "very much improved" because of Partner Production % "very much increased" because of Partner Money Earned % "very much increased" because of Partner Net Change in Money Earned % 'very much increased' because of Partner **Recovery from Climate Shock** % reporting Partner had a 'significant positive effect' on their recovery from shock Quality of Life % 'very much improved' because of Partner ••••• Female farmers Male farmers **.**....**.** Shaded icon = Significant difference in outcomes between the two groups

Partner 6, Partner 7 and Partner 8 were excluded as less than 20% of their farmer base were female.



Partner Performance Ranking: Female Farmers

We wanted to rank interventions based on their reach, experience and impact on female farmers, to understand if certain interventions were more likely to respond favorably to female farmers and create lasting impact on their lives.

You can read about the approach here.

Barring Chomoka, no other partner performed strongly on all three thematic areas of reach, experience and impact.

Even though SunCulture and Arifu report good performance on experience and impact, only 1 in 4 of their farmers is female. Barring one, no other partner performed strongly on all three thematic areas of reach, experience and impact.

Partner Performance Ranking across Reach, Experience, Impact and Overall, for only Female Farmers

| Partners Rank | Reach | Experience | Impact | Overall | % of female farmers | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|--------|---------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Partner 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 70% | | | |
| e Partner 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 24% | | | |
| Partner 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 23% | | | |
| Partner 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 38% | | | |
| Partner 10 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 38% | | | |
| Partner 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 74% | | | |
| Partner 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 66% | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Training and Advisory | | | | | | | | |

Partner 6, Partner 7 and Partner 8 were excluded as less than 20% of their farmer base were female.



Qualitative Outcomes, by Gender

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We found no significant differences in qualitative outcomes reported by female and male farmers, across questions.

We wanted to understand if there were differences in the qualitative outcomes reported by female and male farmers.

While there were no significant differences between two, we found that being able to access markets emerged as an important value proposition among female farmers.

Proportion of Farmers Facing Challenges and Top Challenges, by Partner

(Open-ended data, coded by 60 Decibels; n = 2,513 farmers across 10 Partners in 3 countries)

| Outcomes | Female Farmers | Male Farmers | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Value Proposition among Promoters | Increased knowledge about farm practices Access to markets Increased knowledge on what inputs to apply | Increased knowledge on what inputs to apply Access to reliable irrigation Increased knowledge about farm practices | | | |
| Challenges faced | Delay in payments Inadequate communication Product/service not easy to use | Delay in payments Poor quality of product/service Product/service not easy to use | | | |
| Quality of life improvements | Able to pay for household expenses Able to pay for child(ren)'s education Increased farm production | Able to pay for household expenses Able to pay for child(ren)'s education Invested in new business/livelihood | | | |

Partner 6, Partner 7 and Partner 8 were excluded as less than 20% of their farmer base were female.

Deep Dive: Age

- 41 / Age Difference in Profile, Reach and Experience
- 42 / Age Difference in Impact
- 43 / Age Performance Ranking by Partner



Age: Profile, Reach and Experience

We wanted to understand if the younger farmers that the partners were reaching were different in terms of their profile compared to their older counterparts, and if the younger farmers were differently experiencing the product or the service.

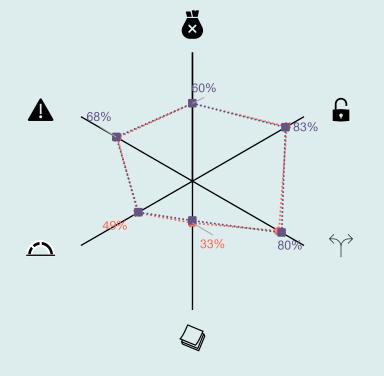
Average performance across all metrics for both groups is the same:

- 1. 35 years or below: 62%
- 2. 36 years or above: 62%

and Experience Indicators, by Age

We found no significant differences between the younger and older farmers, with respect to their profile and their experience with the partner.

AgriFin Portfolio Performance on Profile, Reach Key ٦V



Poverty Profile X % living under \$3.2 a day First Access \cap % accessing product/service provided for • the first time because of Partner \leftrightarrow Alternatives % reporting no good alternatives available **Applying Intervention** % of land applying intervention Net Promoter Score \sim Proxy for farmer satisfaction/loyalty Challenges % facing 'no' challenges 35 years or below •••••

36 years or above **....**



Shaded icon = Significant difference in outcomes between the two groups

41

Partner 5 and Partner 9 were excluded as less than 30 of all farmers were aged 18 to 35.



Age: Impact

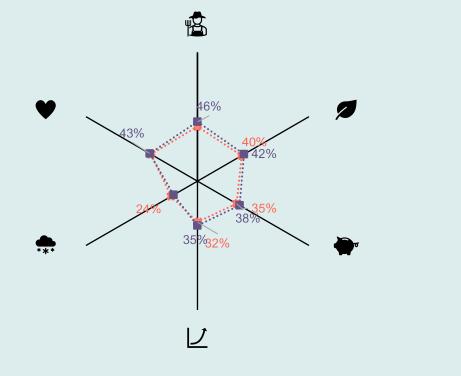
We wanted to understand if the impact being felt by younger farmers was different compared to their older counterparts.

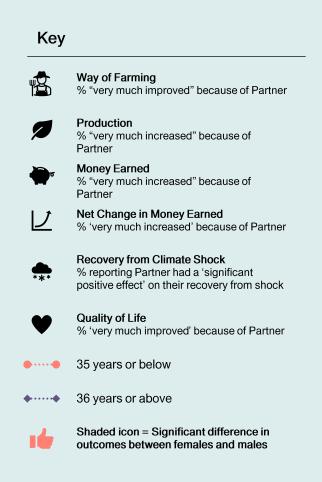
Average performance across all metrics:

- 1. 35 years or below: 36%
- 2. 36 years or above: 37%

We found no significant differences between the impact being felt by the younger and older farmers.

AgriFin Portfolio Performance on Impact Indicators, by Age







Partner Performance Ranking: Farmers Aged 18-35

We wanted to rank partners based on their reach, experience and impact on younger farmers, to understand if certain interventions were more likely to respond favorably to younger farmers and create lasting impact on their lives.

You can read about the approach here.

Barring one, no other partner has a high proportion of young farmers. No partner performed strongly on all three thematic areas of reach, experience and impact.

Partner Performance Ranking across Reach, Experience, Impact and Overall, for only Youth Farmers

| Partners Rank | Reach | Experience | Impact | Overall | % farmers aged 18-35 | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|--------|---------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Partner 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 29% | | | |
| Partner 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 37% | | | |
| e Partner 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 38% | | | |
| Partner 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 63% | | | |
| Partner 10 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 17% | | | |
| Partner 4 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 18% | | | |
| Partner 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 33% | | | |
| Partner 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 18% | | | |
| Training and Advisory | | | | | | | | |

Partner 5 and Partner 9 were excluded as less than 30 of all farmers were aged 18 to 35.

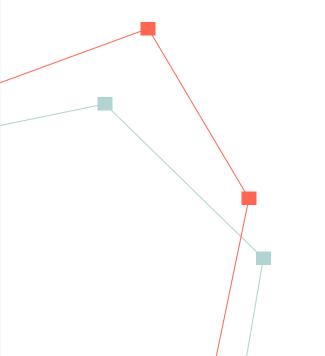
Appendix

- 45 / Farmer Voice Snapshot
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- 47 / Partner Performance Metrics
- 48 / About 60 Decibels' Agriculture Benchmark
- 49 / Indicator Glossary
- 51 / Methodology



Farmer Voice Snapshot

We love hearing honest voices. Here are some that stood out.



Impact Stories

"Because of ACRE Africa, I can now comfortably feed my family. I used to only harvest 3 bags of maize. Now, I can harvest up to 15 bags of maize. With this food provision, life has become a little less stressful than before ." – ACRE Africa farmer

"My income has increased, I don't purchase most food, I get them from the farm because I plant variety and that saves me a lot."– Arifu farmer

"I took another loan which helped me add one more acre of land for farming." – Chomoka farmer

Opinions On Partner Value Proposition

"Their tractor is new, they worked very well and they are cheap. They are easy going people, kind and very dedicated to their work" – Hello Tractor farmer

"The iska weather forecast SMS has helped me a lot especially in determining the best time to treat my crops and the outcome was very good because my crops came out with good yield." – Ignitia farmer

"The app has helped me to know if we're going to go through a dry season hence fill my water tanks to avoid lack of water. This enables me to plant and harvest cow feeds on time." – KALRO farmer "I have saved the extra money that I have been earning from chilli and I am planning on developing my farm depending on what I learn in the training.." – Equator Kenya farmer

"I had more beans for harvesting and after selling, I got more money to channel to my household expenditure. At least now I am able to buy things I could not afford before." – Fadhili AgroCares farmer

Opportunities For Improvement

"[SunCulture should improve] the battery life, because once it's charged it is very short . If it could stay charged for longer then it would be nice." – SunCulture farmer

"TruTrade will face a tough competition from DTF and VERT who are trying to reach out to most farmers as possible unlike TruTrade. They should also review their prices because brokers are paying more than they do." - TruTrade farmer



Here are details about the farmers we spoke with from each of the 10 Partners.

About the Farmers

| Training and Advisory (n = 988) | | Mechanization (n = 504) | Market Access (n = 512) | Financial Input (n = 510) |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Arifu - Kenya n = 250 | Ignitia - Nigeria n = 255 | Hello Tractor - Nigeria n = 253 | Equator Kenya n = 254 | ACRE Africa - Kenya n = 241 |
| Farmers received training to manage their agribusinesses, engage in crop and animal husbandry and learnt skills pertaining to risk management. | Farmers received monthly and seasonal weather forecasts via SMS. | Farmers received on-rent tractor services through village-level agents associated with Hello Tractor. | Farmers received training and inputs from Equator Kenya and sold their produce to Equator Kenya for export purposes. | Farmers received Bima Pima crop insurance for their farms. A subset of farmers also received inputs and training on GAP, along with insurance. |
| Fadhili AgroCares - Kenya n = 260 | KALRO - Kenya n = 223 | SunCulture - Kenya n = 251 | TruTrade - Kenya n = 258 | Chomoka - Tanzania n = 269 |
| Farmers received soil testing services from AgroCares that measure nutrients and other key parameters in soil, feed and leaf. | Farmers received weather-related information via SMS or the KAOP Google Play Store App for better farm management. A subset of farmers received inputs along with weather information. | Farmers bought SunCulture's RainMaker solar water pumps for irrigation. | Farmers received market access services to sell their produce. | Farmers were part of village level savings group where an app called Chomoka was introduced. Chomoka acts as a digital ledger that helps savings groups improve the accuracy and quality of their financial records, as well as a marketplace that unlocks access to formal financial services like loans. |



Partner Performance

This table captures the performance per Partner. 4 out of 10 outperform the 60 dB Agriculture benchmark and are highlighted in pink.

| Partner | Gender Reach | First Access | Net Promoter Score | No Challenges | Way of Farming | Production | Money Earned | Quality of Life | Partner Average |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Partner 1 | 213% | 15% | -45% | 67% | 22% | 27% | 25% | 29% | 44% |
| Partner 2 | 74% | 19% | 189% | 112% | 61% | 84% | 68% | 81% | 86% |
| Partner 3 | 226% | 8% | 189% | 98% | 77% | 89% | 107% | 87% | 110% |
| Partner 4 | 239% | 8% | 111% | 59% | 51% | 59% | 58% | 66% | 81% |
| Partner 5 | 123% | 21% | 84% | 119% | 78% | 99% | 91% | 76% | 86% |
| Partner 6 | 13% | 62% | 237% | 118% | 153% | 213% | 218% | 192% | 151% |
| Partner 7 | 13% | 15% | 189% | 119% | 125% | 174% | 180% | 171% | 123% |
| Partner 8 | 39% | 33% | 149% | 102% | 80% | 84% | 76% | 107% | 84% |
| Partner 9 | 77% | 22% | 226% | 90% | 129% | 158% | 127% | 199% | 129% |
| Partner 10 | 123% | 21% | 103% | 96% | 48% | 100% | 133% | 101% | 91% |



60 Decibels' Agricultural Benchmark

Benchmarks are built by asking the same questions time and again, and by standardising how those questions are asked.

They include:

A variety of products: Agribusinesses purchasing a variety of crops from farmers including cash crops, staples, vegetables, spices. It also includes agribusinesses selling inputs and services to farmers to improve their crop-and-livestock-based livelihoods, and more.

A variety of geographies: Kenya, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, India, Tanzania, Mali, South Africa, Ghana, Myanmar, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Peru, Colombia, Belize, Rwanda, Zambia. Lean Data Insights For Mercy Corps AgriFin

Our benchmark includes data from over 19,000 farmers receiving products and services from 80+ agricultural organizations in 25 countries.

Illustrative Funds and Companies in Our Agriculture Benchmark





Indicator Glossary (1/2)

The indicators are designed so that a higher score indicates more positive impact. 100% is the best a Partner can achieve from a social impact perspective.

Access to Alternatives

This indicator looks at awareness of and access to alternatives in the market. It provides insight into the competitive landscape and the degree to which the Partner is providing a scarce product/service. This is measured through the percent of farmers saying they could not easily find an alternative to the product or service. (Options: 'Yes', 'Maybe', 'No').

Challenge Rate

The percent of farmers who have not experienced a challenge with the product/service. We also sometimes refer to this as ease of use. (Options: 'Yes', 'No')

First Access

The percent of farmers saying they did not have access to a similar product/service before their engagement with the Partner. (Options: 'Yes', 'No')

Relative Inclusivity Ratio

We compare the poverty levels of Partner farmers to national poverty lines in the countries they are working in. This allows us to assess how representative their farmer base is in comparison to the market they are operating in. $\sum_{x=1}^{3} \frac{(Partner Poverty Line \$x)}{(Country Poverty Line \$x)}$ / 3, where x= 1, 2 and 3 are \$1.90, \$3.20 and \$5.50 respectively.

Money Earned from Crop / Livestock

The percent of farmers saying that the money they earned from the main crop / livestock being impacted by the Partner has changed because of product/service as 'Very much increased'. (Other options: 'Slightly increased', 'No change', 'Slightly decreased', 'Very much decreased')



Indicator Glossary (2/2)

The indicators are designed so that a higher score indicates more positive impact. 100% is the best a Partner can achieve from a social impact perspective.

Net Promoter Score®

The Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a common gauge of customer satisfaction and loyalty. NPS is measured through asking farmers to rate their likelihood to recommend a product/service to a friend or family member on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is least likely and 10 is most likely. The NPS is the percent of farmers rating 9 or 10 out of 10 ('Promoters') minus the percent of farmers rating 0 to 6 out of 10 ('Detractors'). Those rating 7 or 8 are 'Passives'. The score can be anything from -100 to 100.

Poverty Reach

The percent of farmers living below different poverty lines. We use the Poverty Probability Index® (PPI), a standardized tool developed by Grameen Foundation, now housed at Innovation for Poverty Action. The PPI identifies the likelihood of farmers living at different internationally recognized poverty lines. We use the World Bank relative poverty line of \$3.20 per day and the extreme poverty line at \$1.90 per day, using 2011 PPP.

Crop / Livestock Production

The percent of farmers saying that the production from crop / livestock has changed because of product/service. For benchmarking, we look at those saying production has 'Very much increased'. (Other options: 'Slightly increased', 'No change', 'Slightly decreased', 'Very much decreased')

Quality of Life

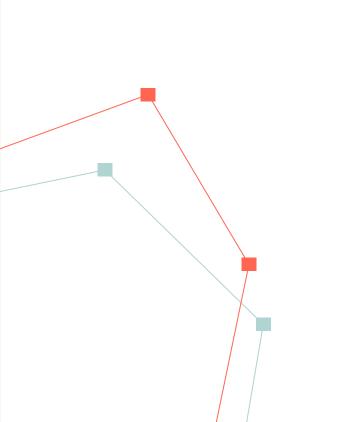
The percent of farmers saying their quality of life has improved because of a product/service. For benchmarking, we look at those saying their quality of life has 'Very much improved' i.e. a meaningful change. (Other options: 'Slightly improved', 'No change', 'Got slightly worse', 'Got much worse')

Way of Farming / Rearing Livestock

The percent of farmers saying their way of farming / rearing livestock has improved because of a product/service. For benchmarking, we look at those saying their way of farming has 'Very much improved' i.e. a meaningful change. (Other options: 'Slightly improved', 'No change', 'Got slightly worse', 'Got much worse')



Summary Of Data Collected



2,514 phone interviews completed in 2020 – 2021.

Methodology

| Survey mode | Phone |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Partners | 10 |
| Countries | 3 (Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania) |
| Languages | 4 (Swahili, English, Pigdin, Hausa) |
| Projects | 10 |
| Survey length | 22 minutes |
| Sampling method | Random |
| Response rate | 59% |
| Total Responses Collected | |
| Farmers | 2,514 |
| % Female respondents | 35% |



Thank You For Working With Us!

Let's do it again sometime.

About 60 Decibels

60 Decibels makes it easy to listen to the people who matter most. 60 Decibels is an impact measurement company that helps organizations around the world better understand their farmers, suppliers, and beneficiaries. Its proprietary approach, Lean DataSM, brings farmer-centricity, speed and responsiveness to impact measurement.

60 Decibels has a network of 500+ trained Lean DataSM researchers in 45+ countries who speak directly to farmers to understand their lived experience. By combining voice, SMS, and other technologies to collect data remotely with proprietary survey tools, 60 Decibels helps clients listen more effectively and benchmark their social performance against their peers.

60 Decibels has offices in London, Nairobi, New York, and Bengaluru. To learn more, visit 60 decibels.com.

Your Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback on the 60dB process; take 5 minutes to fill out our feedback survey here!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Leesa Shrader, Collins Marita, John Mundy, Elena, Holtkotte, Jack Odero and rest of the AgriFin Accelerate team for their support, advice, and enthusiasm throughout these projects.

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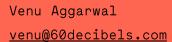


| I | have a | bumper | harvest. | | | |
|---|--------|--------|----------|------|-----------|--------------|
| I | sold | my | crops. | | | |
| I | have a | lot of | money | from | the sales | of my crops. |

I can

- > restock my shop
- > pay my child's school fee
- > earn more from farming

now.



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